Abolition of Hotel Expenditure Tax (HET)

3629. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether hospitality sector has been urging Government for abolitions of Hotel Expenditure Tax (HET) to boost tourism trade; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the request of the hospitality industry.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Tourism has supported the view of the hospitality sector to abolish Hotel Expenditure Tax to give a boost to tourism, however, the same has not been acceded to by the Government.

Infrastructure Industry Status to Tourism Industry

3630. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several organisations/ associations have been demanding infrastructure industry status to tourism industry; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay in announcing the decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (§HRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) Proposals regarding infrastructure status to Tourism industry received from various tourism industry organisations were recommended to the Ministry of Finance.

(b) The decision in this regard is to be taken by the

Finance Ministry. The matter is being pursued at the Finance Ministry.

Action Plan to Construct Yatri Nlwas In the Country

3631. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any comprehensive action plan to construct Yatri Niwas in the country, particularly in Rajasthan, Orissa, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh during 2001-2002 to boost tourism;

(b) the financial assistance allocated for 2001-2002 as compared to 2000-2001 for such projects, State-wise; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to attract more domestic/foreign tourists particularly in Rajasthan and Orissa indicating the target set for the visit thereof during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) The Department of Tourism extends Central financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories every year in consultation with them for development of infrastructure projects including Yatri Niwases. The projects for the year 2001-2002 are yet to be prioritised.

(b) During the year 2000-2001 financial assistance of Rs. 403.80 lakhs was sanctioned for 9 Yatri Niwases in the States of Maharasthra, Punjab, Orissa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

(c) Promotion of tourism is mainly undertaken by the State Government/UT Administrations in their respective States. However, the Department of Tourism, Government of India